

stored in the memory, the same type of software program being software to be used by the another peripheral device for executing prescribed operations;

an old/new judgement unit that, when the type judgement unit judges that the another peripheral device stores the same type of software program in a rewritable manner, judges which of the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device and the software program stored in the memory is older; and

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a first rewrite unit that, when the new/old judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device is older than the software stored in the memory, rewrites the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device into the software program stored in the memory.

2. (Amended) A peripheral device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory stores the software program in a rewritable manner, and further comprising a second rewrite unit that when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device is newer than the software stored in the memory, rewrites the software program stored in the memory into the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device.

3. (Amended) A peripheral device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the type judgement unit performs judgement for all other peripheral devices connected to the network; and the old/new judgement unit performs judgement on the all other devices that are judged to store the same type of software program by the type judgement unit.

4. (Amended) A peripheral device connected to a network comprising:
a transmission unit that performs transmission and reception of data over the network to and from another peripheral device connected to the network;

a memory that stores a software program in a rewritable manner, the software program being software used by the peripheral device for executing prescribed operations;

a type judgement unit that judges whether the another peripheral device stores a same type of software program as the software program stored in the memory;

an old/new judgement unit that, when the type judgement unit judges that the another peripheral device stores the same type of software program, judges which of the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device and the software program stored in the memory is newer; and

a rewrite unit that, when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the another device is newer than the software stored in the memory, rewrites the software program stored in the memory into the same type of software program stored in the another device.

5. (Amended) A peripheral device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the type judgement unit performs judgement for all other devices connected to the network; and the old/new judgement unit performs judgement on all other devices that are judged to store the same type software program by the type judgement unit.

6. (Amended) A network system comprising:

a network;

a peripheral device connected to the network; and

another peripheral device connected to the network and having a memory that stores, in a rewritable manner, a software program to be used by the another peripheral device for executing prescribed operations, the peripheral device comprising:

a transmission unit that performs transmission and reception of data over the network to and from the another peripheral device;

a memory that stores a software program to be used by the peripheral device for executing prescribed operations;

a type judgement unit that judges whether the another peripheral device stores a same type of software program as the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device;

an old/new judgement unit that, when the type judgement unit judges that the another peripheral device stores the same type of software program in a rewritable manner, judges which of the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device and the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device is older; and

a first rewrite unit that, when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device is older than the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device, rewrites the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device into the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device.

7. (Amended) The network system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the memory stores the software program in a rewritable manner, and further comprising a second rewrite unit that, when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device is newer than the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device, rewrites the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device into the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device.

8. (Amended) The network system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the type judgement unit performs judgement for all other peripheral devices connected to the network; and the old/new judgement unit performs judgement on all other peripheral devices that are judged to store the same type software program by the type judgement unit.

9. (Amended) The network system as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the peripheral device and the another peripheral device includes a rewrite prevention unit that prevents rewrite of the software program stored in the memory of at least one of the peripheral device and the another peripheral device, and wherein the first rewrite unit or second rewrite unit does not rewrite the software program that the rewrite prevention unit prevents the rewrite of.

10. (Amended) A network system comprising:

- a network;
- a peripheral device connected to the network; and
- another peripheral device connected to the network and having a memory that stores, in a rewritable manner, a software program, the peripheral device comprising:
 - a transmission unit that performs transmission and reception of data over the network to and from the another device;
 - a memory that stores a software program in a rewritable manner;
 - a type judgement unit that judges whether the another peripheral device stores the same type of software program as the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device;
 - an old/new judgement unit that, when the type judgement unit judges that the another peripheral device stores the same type of software program, judges which of the same type of software program stored in the another peripheral device and the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device is newer;
 - a first rewrite unit that, when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the memory of the another peripheral device is older than the software stored in the memory of the peripheral device, rewrites the same type

of software program stored in the memory of the another peripheral device into the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device; and

a second rewrite unit that, when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of software program stored in the memory of the another peripheral device is newer than the software stored in the memory of the peripheral device, rewrites the software program stored in the memory of the peripheral device into the same type of software program stored in the memory of the another peripheral device.

12. (Amended) A memory medium storing programs comprising:

a first program of judging whether a peripheral device connected to a network stores, in a rewritable manner, the same type of software program as a software program stored in a reference memory accessible through the network;

a second program of judging which of the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device and the software program stored in the reference memory is older when the peripheral device is judged to store the same type of software program in a rewritable manner; and

a third program of rewriting the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device in the manner of the software program stored in the reference memory when the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device is judged to be older than the software stored in the reference memory.

13. (Amended) The memory medium as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a fourth program of rewriting the software program stored in the reference memory into the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device when the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device is judged to be newer than the software stored in the reference memory.

15. (Amended) A memory medium storing programs comprising:

a first program of judging whether a peripheral device connected to a network stores the same type of software program as a software program stored in a reference memory;

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a second program of judging which of the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device and the software program stored in the reference memory is newer when the first program judges that the peripheral device stores the same type of software program; and

a third program of rewriting the software program stored in the reference memory into the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device when the second program judges that the same type of software program stored in the peripheral device is newer than the software stored in the reference memory.

Please add claims 17-19 as follows:

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--17. A printer connected to a network comprising:
a transmission unit that performs transmission and reception of data over the network to and from another printer connected to the network;
a memory that stores a firmware to be used by the printer for executing prescribed operations;
a type judgement unit that judges whether the another printer stores, in a rewritable manner, a same type of firmware as the firmware stored in the memory;
an old/new judgement unit that when the type judgement unit judges that the another printer stores the same type of firmware in a rewritable manner, judges which of the same type of firmware stored in the another printer and the firmware stored in the memory is older in version; and
a first rewrite unit that when the new/old judgement unit judges that the same type of firmware stored in the another printer is older in version than the firmware

stored in the memory, rewrites the same type of firmware stored in the another printer to the firmware stored in the memory.--

--18. A printer as claimed in claim 17, wherein the memory stores the firmware in a rewritable manner, and further comprising a second rewrite unit that when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of firmware stored in the another printer is newer in version than the first version, rewrites the firmware stored in the memory into the same type of firmware stored in the another printer.--

--19. A printer connected to a network comprising:

- a transmission unit that performs transmission and reception of data over the network to and from another printer connected to the network;
- a memory that stores a firmware in a rewritable manner, the firmware being firmware used by the printer for executing prescribed operations;
- a type judgement unit that judges whether the another printer stores a same type of firmware as the firmware stored in the memory;
- an old/new judgement unit that when the type judgement unit judges that the another printer stores the same type of software program, judges which of the same type of firmware stored in the another printer and the firmware stored in the memory is newer in version; and
- a rewrite unit that when the old/new judgement unit judges that the same type of firmware stored in the another printer is newer in version than the firmware stored in the memory, rewrites the firmware stored in the memory into the same type of firmware stored in the another printer.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-10, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended and claims 17-19 have been added. No new matter have been added.